



World Food Programme

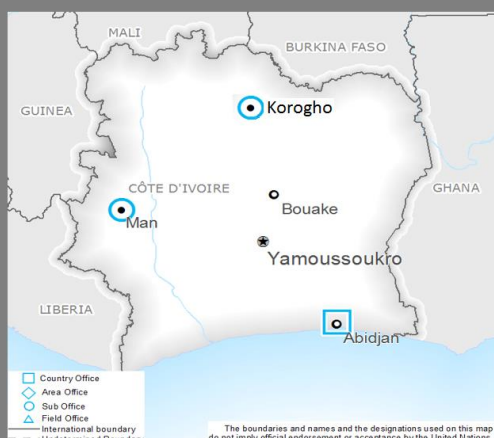
SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Côte d'Ivoire Country Brief February 2019



Operational Context

With an estimated 25.1 million inhabitants (48.4 percent women), Côte d'Ivoire has enjoyed steady economic growth since the end of the 2010-2011 post-electoral crisis, restoring its middle-income status. However, this has not translated into inclusive socioeconomic development for most of the population. Poverty rates remain high, affecting 46 percent of the population, food security continues to be a challenge and the country suffers from the triple burden of malnutrition, represented by micronutrient deficiencies, undernutrition and overnutrition, with significant regional disparities. WFP has been present in Côte d'Ivoire since 1969, providing support according to the national context. WFP operations are currently focused on development interventions to improve food security, reduce malnutrition, enhance education achievements and minimize gender inequalities. WFP activities are concentrated in northern and western rural areas which are particularly more vulnerable and food insecure.



Prevalence of food insecurity:
10.8 % of the population

Chronic malnutrition: **21.6% of children between 24-59 months**

2017 Gender Inequality Index:
170 out of 189 countries

2017 Human Development Index:
170 out of 189 countries

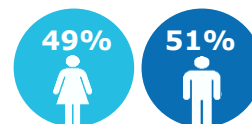
In Numbers

58 mt of food assistance distributed

Capacity strengthening to 35 women's smallholder farmer groups (2,550 members) is ongoing

US\$ 2.99 m six months (March-August 2019) shortfalls

90,511 people assisted
in February 2019



Operational Updates

- WFP in Côte d'Ivoire joined the Government in celebrating the fourth edition of the African Day of School Feeding under the theme "Investing in home-grown school feeding for achieving Zero Hunger and sustainable inclusive education for all, including refugees, returnees and internally-displaced persons in Africa". The event, hosted by the Government of Côte d'Ivoire and the African Union this year, spanned three days, from 27 February to 1 March. Ministers and senior government officials from 16 African States as well as school feeding representatives of African countries were gathered to celebrate the achievements of the 39 African countries that implement school feeding programmes and to reinforce the continent's commitment in promoting home-grown school feeding as a key strategy to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- In February, nutritious hot school meals were provided to 90,511 public primary schoolchildren in seven targeted regions across the country, to contribute to improved school attendance, nutrition and education achievements of the schoolchildren. Given the ongoing nationwide teachers' strike, the school meals activities remained limited as the teachers' union entered into discussions with the Government on finding solutions to their grievances. WFP continues to track the ongoing negotiations.
- WFP supported the Ministry of Health in finalizing the feasibility and acceptability study of routine Vitamin A supplementation and deworming campaign. As part of national efforts to eradicate polio, this study was commissioned to implement a sustainable transition plan, from supplementation and deworming during national vaccination sessions to routine distribution in health facilities and communities.
- Under the small agriculture and market support (SAMS) project targeting 35 smallholder farmer groups in western and northern Côte d'Ivoire, off-season vegetable production and installation of irrigation system are ongoing. Monitoring activities focused on evaluating the application by the smallholders of improved food conservation practices taught, including the proper use of hermetic bags and silos, the good equipment management and the evolution of the marketing platform established.

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Main photo: Credit: WFP/Marie Dasylova

Caption: WFP-supported women smallholder farmer, Korhogo 2018

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

2019 Total Requirement (in USD)	2019 Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Months Shortfalls (in USD)
13.86 m	7.22 m	2.99 m

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 1: Primary-school-age children and their households in food-insecure areas have access to adequate nutritious food all year

Focus area: Root causes

Activities:

- Provide school meals, take-home rations complementary services to primary-school-age children during the school year and promote the purchase of locally produced food for school meals.

Strategic Outcome 2: Populations affected by shocks have access to food to cover their basic food and nutritional needs during and in the aftermath of shocks

Focus area: Crisis response

Activities:

- Provide an integrated assistance package to affected populations, including food assistance, SBCC and specialized nutritious food to children aged 6-59 months, pregnant and lactating women and girls and people living with HIV, to improve access to food and prevent malnutrition.

Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition

Strategic Outcome 2: Vulnerable food-insecure populations in targeted areas – particularly children, women of child-bearing age and people living with HIV – have improved nutritional status by 2023

Focus area: Root causes

Activities:

- Support the implementation of the national nutrition programme, with a focus on the development and implementation of a gender-responsive social behaviour change communication strategy; the implementation of the national strategy for the fortification of regularly consumed staples; enhancement of the primary education curriculum to include nutrition; and the generation of evidence on the activities in the national multisectoral nutrition plan.

Strategic Result 4: Sustainable food systems

Strategic Outcome 4: Targeted populations and communities have stronger livelihoods, are more resilient to climate and other shocks and benefit from more efficient and equitable value chains and sustainable food systems by 2023

Focus area: Resilience building

Activities:

- Provide an integrated and gender-transformative assistance package to smallholder farmers, especially women's farmer groups, comprising training on good agricultural practices, equipment and social behaviour change communication-related activities that place value on local agricultural potential, asset creation and targeted food assistance; and provide technical support for generating evidence to inform the scale-up of farmer groups' activities.

Strategic Result 5: Countries strengthened capacities

Strategic Outcome 4: National institutions have strengthened capacity to better target and manage food security, nutrition and social protection programmes by 2023

Focus area: Root causes

Activities:

Provide technical support to national partners in their efforts address school feeding, food security, nutrition, social protection emergency preparedness and response.

- WFP and UN agencies gathered in February to start planning, with the Ministry of Plan and Development, joint programmes enhancing women empowerment, social protection and nutrition. This is as part of the contribution of the United Nations Systems in Côte d'Ivoire to the implementation of the government social plan (PSG), which aims to accelerate the delivery of social services to the population by 2020. The main priorities of the PSG include improving local health services, social protection, access and retention of children in school, access to essential services, employment and food security.
- WFP is supporting the Government in developing a new national strategy to accelerate girls' education. Cote d'Ivoire faces a major challenge with significant number of girls of school age that continue to be out of school. Under the coordination of UNICEF, WFP and development partners contributed in assessing the immediate, underlying and structural causes behind the low school attendance and retention of girls to propose counter solutions.
- In light of the upcoming 63rd edition of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW63), ministers, senior officials, civil society and gender experts were gathered to discuss and examine gaps, identify challenges and develop policy recommendations. These will serve as the regional input to CSW63, which will be held from 11 to 22 March with the theme "Social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls".

Challenges

- The operational requirements in 2019 to implement activities as part of the CSP amount to USD 13.86 million. The allocated contributions only cover half of the requirements, hampering the country office's ability to implement activities at the planned scale, in particular nutrition and resilience activities targeting vulnerable and food insecure smallholder farming communities.